

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT COMMITTEE

Fiscal Year 2009

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) was adopted by Amherst voters in April 2001, which established a local fund based on a 1% tax surcharge (subsequently amended to 1.5%) on property valuations above \$100,000 *"for the acquisition, creation and preservation of open space; for the acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation and restoration of historic resources; for the acquisition, creation and preservation of land for recreational use; for the creation, preservation and support of community housing; and for the rehabilitation or restoration of open space, land for recreational use and community housing that is acquired or created."* The law also established a State Trust Fund, from which annual allocations are made to towns that have accepted the Act, partially or fully matching local appropriations. This has allowed for a wide range of projects to be undertaken. As of FY 08 local allocations have been matched 100% by the state. In FY 09 the percentage was reduced to 68% and in FY 10 is anticipated to be reduced to 35%. The declines in the match for communities stem from the falling real estate market and a growth in the number of communities participating in the program, thus spreading the funds out over a larger base.

The Community Preservation Act Committee (CPAC) is charged with assessing the needs of the Town in those areas identified by the Act, and recommending relevant expenditures to Town Meeting. By state law, CPA funds are to be spent only on community housing, historic preservation, open space, and recreation. A minimum of 10% of the available funds (from the surcharge and the state match) must be set aside each year (although not necessarily spent) for each of three categories of community housing, historical preservation, and open space. Recreation is the fourth recipient, or beneficiary, but is not mandated to receive the minimum 10%.

In allocating the Community Preservation Act 1.5% surcharge and matching state funds the Community Preservation Act Committee (CPAC) committed to:

- a) Advancing projects currently underway
- b) Projects broadly supported across committees and Town departments, or
- c) Meeting ongoing legal obligations

Under the Community Preservation Act cities and towns are required to spend 10% of collected funds on each of the three following categories:

- Affordable Housing creation and support
- Historic Building and Landscape acquisition and preservation
- Open Space acquisition and preservation

The remaining 70% may be directed toward any of the above three categories or for land used as Recreation Space.

FINANCIAL REVIEW:

Beginning Fund Balance July 1, 2008	\$ 195,704.58
Current Year Tax Surcharge at 1.5%	\$ 365,257.65
State Reimbursement at	\$ 233,919.00
Other	\$ 50,387.56
Appropriations or Reserves made for FY2009	\$ (573,482.00)
Ending Fund Balance June 30, 2009	\$ 271,786.79

FY2009 APPROPRIATED BY CATEGORY	Community Housing	Historical Preservation	Open Space	Admin. Other	TOTAL APPRN.
Project					
Community Housing - Olympia Drive	\$150,000.00				
Habitat for Humanity - Stanley Street	\$ 30,000.00				
Woman's Club Carriage House		\$ 8,800.00			
Archival Documents Conservation		\$ 20,000.00			
575 North East Street Kimball Farm		\$ 25,600.00			
Hills Mansion		\$ 81,000.00			
Debt Service/Town Hall Renovations		\$ 44,250.00			
Debt Service/Plum brook			\$ 42,332.00		
appraisals and Surveys - recreation land			\$ 20,000.00		
Appraisals and Surveys - open space			\$ 20,000.00		
Tiejen APR			\$ 80,000.00		
Kimball House Compensation Agreement			\$ 50,000.00		
CPAC - Administration				\$1,500.00	
	\$ 180,000.00	\$179,650.00	\$212,332.00	\$1,500.00	\$ 573,482.00

CPAC members in 2009:

Peter Jessop (Chair)	Housing Authority
Mary Streeter (Clerk)	at Large
Ellen Kosmer	at Large
Stanley Ziomek	LSSE
Denise Barberet	Planning Board
Louis Greenbaum	Historical Commission
Vincent O'Connor (V Chair)	at Large
Liv Baker	Conservation Commission
Vladimir Morales	at Large